

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/689,537
Response filed July 18, 2007
Reply to OA dated March 22, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Attached herewith is a new FIG. 6a.

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REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended the Applicants' representative at the personal interview of June 15, 2007, and for the suggestions provided by the Examiner for advancing the prosecution of this application.

The allowability of Claims 4 - 7 is acknowledged. Claims 4 and 5 are amended to have Claims 4 and 5 in independent form. It is believed that Claims 4 - 7 are now in allowable form.

As suggested by the Examiner, drawing Fig. 6a is added to show the second possibility for the arrangement of annular pieces for hinge units, defined in Claim 1. The drawing of FIG. 6 shows the first possibility.

The specification is amended to describe in the specification the second possible arrangement which is defined in Claim 1. Support for the amendment to the specification is found at least in original Claims 1, 2 and 4.

The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2007.

Claims 1 - 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murray et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,699) in view of Kubo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,633,749). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the presently claimed portable terminal device has a pair of cabinets, that each of the cabinets has a front cabinet half segment and a rear cabinet half segment, and that an inventive feature of the present invention is the location of a hinge in relation to the front cabinet

half segment and the rear cabinet half segment.

In Murray et al., (102) is a cabinet and (108) is a cabinet. In cabinet (102), (106) is the front cabinet half segment and (104) is the rear cabinet half segment. In cabinet (108), (110) is the front cabinet half segment and (112) is the rear cabinet half segment. The hinge is located at an end portion of (106) and an at end portion of (110), which are both front cabinet half segments, and therefore not the claimed arrangement.

In Kubo et al. (10) is a cabinet and (20) is a cabinet. In cabinet (10), the segment shown in Fig. 3(a) is the front cabinet half segment. In cabinet (20) the segment shown in Fig. 3(a) is the rear cabinet half segment. The hinge is at an end portion of (10) as shown in Fig. 3(a) and an end portion of (20) as shown in Fig. 3(a), which are both front cabinet half segments, and therefore not the claimed arrangement.

On June 15, 2007, a personal interview with the Examiner was carried out at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. During the interview, it was agreed that if Claim 1 is to be maintained, a drawing, similar to FIG. 6, having a hinge mechanism at an end portion of the rear cabinet half segment of the manipulation-side cabinet and on the front cabinet half segment of the display-side cabinet, would be required. Accordingly, attached hereto is a new drawing for FIG. 6a. The specification has been amended to include a short description of the drawing and the embodiment.

Also, in regard to Claim 1, the Examiner commented on the wording of the claim being confusing. In lines 2 - 4 it is claimed that each front cabinet half segment has a rear cabinet half segment joined to it, and then at lines 6 - 7 and lines 9 - 10 the same feature is repeated. Accordingly, Claim 1 is amended to clarify the language. In view of the amendment to Claim 1, the above remarks and the

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discussions at the personal interview, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be removed.

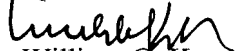
It is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is patently distinct from the cited references and that claims 1 - 7, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Please charge any fees for any additional extension of time which may be required and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time; Check in the amount of \$120.00

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